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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/665,978	09/19/2003	Anthony John Wood	ROKU-001/00US	5370

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EXAMINER

KOSTAK, VICTOR R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 12/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/665,978

Applicant(s)

WOOD ET AL.

Examiner

Victor R. Kostak

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 November 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 28-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 28-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2622

1. Applicant's arguments filed on 11/20/06, in light of the amendment to claim 28 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The rejection to claim 28 and its dependent claims have been modified to include the teaching of Hansen (of record). The remaining rejections presented below are repeated from the last Office action since applicant, as acknowledged, has not amended those claims.

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 28 is now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al. (of record) in view of Hang et al., and Maine (of record) in further view of Hansen (of record).

Reviewing Jiang, (noting Figs. 1, 2 and 6) he displays imagery in high-definition form on a media player (any of various kinds: col. 12 lines 7-11), and includes any of various source devices including peripherals, storage devices, disks and ROMs (col. 2 lines 54-67). His system includes an engine 220 that is capable of generating first and second high-definition imagery on display 150, and overlaying animation (e.g. col. 5 lines 55-65), wherein an event indicator is included to indicate that an event associated with the overlay is occurring, which in turn flips or switches the high-definition display presentation (col. 6 lines 37-63). The display of any electronically-generated imagery can be considered electronic art.

As noted above, Jiang expressly allows for a variety of video devices to be used besides a DVD, including HDTV, but does not specify the pixel/line amounts, which further suggests that

any suitable HDTV format could be used.

In view of this, it would have been obvious to use the well-known 720 line format as mentioned by Hang (col. 3 lines 34-35) since such a suitable HTDV format would have been available at the time of filing.

Reviewing Maine, his system Maine (noting Figs. 2 and 3) includes an executive 104 that corresponds to the claimed media player (as it plays any of plural media from any of plural media sources). The image play can be done on a high-definition monitor (section [0062], and executive 104 can include plural input ports to accommodate plural portable media sources [0074], [0082], the executive being interfaced by unit 102 connected by an inherent port and indirectly connected to the output terminal of the executive 102 for selecting an image file from the portably stored content (from a DVD, for example), to generate a high definition image on the high definition display 108.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the multiple ports of Maine in the system of Jiang for the benefit of allowing the user to associate plural diverse data devices, thereby expanding the user's options for variety. Jiang also points out that his system involves any of various source options including high definition TV (col. 12 lines 7-11), further suggesting the desirability of to engage in expanded applications.

It is further noted that Since Maine allows for the inclusion of interchangeable modules for the purpose of upgrading his media player, it would have been obvious to include a thumbnail resolution manager as disclosed by Hansen in his high-definition media player [0006], [0074], [0099], [0100], which provides an upgrade by allowing displays to be selectively limited

Art Unit: 2622

in size and therefore multiple simultaneous viewing of plural data.

Applicant's claim recites the selection of various interactions with those thumbnails (which one of ordinary skill in the art can consider qualifying as icons since they are capable of being manipulated as miniaturized versions of images ([0099] of Hansen)). The thumbnail clips of Hansen can be selected for full viewing [0100], which covers one of the selections recited by applicant (the selection option requiring only one of the types).

2. Claims 29-32 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hansen et al., Hang and Maine, and in further view of Prinson (of record).

Maine points out that his executive media player 104 can be upgraded through the use of interchangeable modules (section [0082]). It would therefore have been obvious to upgrade his media player (modifying Jiang) with the addition of a screen saver to monitor the lack of activity and therefore display substituted imagery, and for the additional benefit of presenting pleasing imagery when no active imagery is otherwise displayed, as taught by Prinsen (col. 4 lines 1-5 and lines 28-38), so allowed by Maine, thereby meeting claims 29 and 30.

As for claim 31, the screen saver imagery comes on when there is an insufficient amount of motion in the current imagery (designated by some inherent threshold as a stationary image: Prinsen col. 4 lines 28-30).

As for claim 32, the imagery is inherently defined by a two-dimensional pixel array, and motion or lack thereof is detected and determined to represent stationary imagery when

insufficient pixels exhibit motion, thereby triggering the screen-saver substitution.

3. Claims 33 and 34 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang, Maine, Hansen et al, and in further view of Kelly (of record).

As noted above, Maine points out that his executive media player 104 can be upgraded through the use of interchangeable modules (section [0082]). Kelly includes an auto-run file feature (col. 6 lines 23-26) which provides the benefit of running specific files without the need for user prompting, instead relying on file identification. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such an auto-run module in the system of Jiang/Maine for the benefit of running selected multimedia files without the need for user intervention, and because Maine allows for system upgrades of any kind, thereby meeting claims 33 and 40.

As for claim 34, the image file of Kelly is an auto-run file, and since Maine allows for any module that provides an upgrade in his image/audio media player, it would have been obvious to use auto-run capabilities in his system to thereby enable automatic playback of image files instead of needing the input of the user.

4. Claims 40-43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang and Maine, and in further view of Kelly (of record).

As noted above, Maine points out that his executive media player 104 can be upgraded through the use of interchangeable modules (section [0082]). Kelly includes an auto-run file feature (col. 6 lines 23-26) which provides the benefit of running specific files without the need

Art Unit: 2622

for user prompting, instead relying on file identification. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such an auto-run module in the system of Jiang/Maine for the benefit of running selected multimedia files without the need for user intervention, and because Maine allows for system upgrades of any kind, thereby meeting claim 40.

As for claim 41, because Jiang/Maine in view of Kelly does not run files exclusive in an auto-run mode, those times where the system does not detect auto-run files would accordingly present user-prompted video, audio, or audio/video files from the portably-stored media source.

As for claim 42, the user of the Jiang/Maine/Kelly system has at any time options including plural high definition image sources, and files that include audio and video data, video only, and audio-only. The choice of playing back audio which does not accompany the displayed high-definition video would have been obvious to include as an option, thereby increasing the playback options for the user and expanding the variety for and controls of the user.

As for claim 16, Maine allows for any of plural sources to be accessible by his executive media player 104 (e.g. [0030], [0038], [0046], [0050], any of which can be designated a 'visualizer' since the imagery is programmably obtained therefrom and can be displayed on a high-definition monitor ([0062])).

5. Claim 35 is now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang, Maine, Hansen et al, and in further view of Saiki et al. (of record).

The high-definition display unit of Saiki (noting Fig. 3) includes an ambient light sensor

for adjusting the display characteristics upon determining the degree of ambient light during display operation (col. 7 line 62 - col. 8 line 21), resulting in an improved presentation that is not effected by surrounding lighting conditions. It would have been obvious to include such a module in the system of Jiang as modified by Yatomi and Maine for the express purpose of maintaining adequate display brightness levels regardless of the ambient lighting conditions, and as Maine allows for a multitude of upgrading, as discussed throughout.

6. Claims 36 and 39 are now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang, Maine and Hansen et al., and in further view of Kelts (of record).

The multimedia player of Kelts (e.g. Figs. 1-4 and 27) includes high definition capabilities (section [0107]) as well as display orientation selection ([0088]) . It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such orientation options in the multimedia player of Maine for the purpose of providing the user with extended display capabilities, to thereby present the user with as much variety and options for playback as possible, such being a high consideration of the skilled artisan in the multimedia presentation field.

Furthermore, and as stated previously, Maine corroborates this as he points out that any plural upgrades in functionality of his multimedia player system is welcome, thereby meeting claim 36.

As for claim 39, Maine also points out that any type of source device can be incorporated in his media player, including solid-state storage or any other removable or non-removable media ([0036]). In view of this express allowance, it would have been obvious to use a flash

card which is a type of removable media and which is very well known and as shown by Kelts in his similar media player (elements 794 and 784 in Fig. 27).

7. Claim 37 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang and Maine, and in further view of Hansen et al. (of record).

Since Maine allows for the inclusion of interchangeable modules for the purpose of upgrading his media player, it would have been obvious to include a thumbnail resolution manager as disclosed by Hansen in his high-definition media player [0006], [0074], [0099], [0100], which provides an upgrade by allowing displays to be selectively limited in size and therefore multiple simultaneous viewing of plural data.

8. Claim 38 is now rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang, Maine, and Hansen et al., and in further view of Lauer et al. (of record).

It would also have been obvious to include a smart display manager module as disclosed by Lauer (col. 14 line 62 - col. 15 line 5) for the express benefit of scaling an image based on a display screen size or shape, which would thereby allow the user of the system of Jiang as modified by Yatomi and Maine, to accommodate any of the input sources regardless of their respective image dimensions, on the high resolution display screen.

9. Claim 48 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al. Hang, Maine et al. and Kelly, and in further view of Kelts.

As discussed earlier, the multimedia player of Kelts (e.g. Figs. 1-4 and 27) includes high

definition capabilities (section [0107]) as well as display orientation selection ([0088]) . It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such orientation options in the multimedia player of Maine as modified by Kelly for the purpose of providing the user with extended display capabilities, to thereby present the user with as much variety and options for playback as possible, such being a high consideration of the skilled artisan in the multimedia presentation field. Furthermore, and as stated previously, Maine corroborates this as he points out that any plural upgrades in functionality of his multimedia player system are welcome, thereby meeting claim 48.

10. Claims 44 and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang, Maine et al., and Kelly et al. in further view of Lektion et al.

The media player of Lektion (e.g. [0017]) includes a task view interface, the express benefit being the ability to alternate between viewable task panes ([0041]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such a task view interface in the system of Maine as modified by Kelly for the clear purpose of switching between plural data from respective sources and/or files, thereby enabling ready navigation in the selection process.

Such display options would have been obvious to cover the plural audio/video file selection of Maine, as well as stopping display of image data (as is always an option for the viewer), and subsequent display of task options to allow the user to proceed in the source/file selection options.

11. Claim 46 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang, Maine et al., Kelly et al. and Lection et al. in further view of Hansen et al.

Since Maine allows for the inclusion of interchangeable modules for the purpose of upgrading his media player, it would have been obvious to include a thumbnail resolution manager as disclosed by Hansen in his high-definition media player [0006], [0074], [0099], [0100], which provides an upgrade by allowing displays to be selectively limited in size and therefore a reduction in the number of pixels constituting the image, thereby allowing therefore multiple simultaneous views of plural data in thumbnail formats.

12. Claim 47 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang, Maine et al. and Kelly et al. in further view of Lauer et al.

It would also have been obvious to include a smart display manager module as disclosed by Lauer (col. 14 line 62 - col. 15 line 5) for the express benefit of scaling an image based on a display screen size or shape, which would thereby allow the user of Maine's system to accommodate any of the input sources regardless of their respective image dimensions, on the high resolution display screen, explained earlier.

13. Claim 49 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al., Hang, Maine et al. and Kelly et al. and in further view of Prinsen.

As discussed throughout, Maine points out that his executive media player 104 can be upgraded through the use of interchangeable modules (section [0082]). It would therefore

Art Unit: 2622

have been obvious to upgrade his media player with the addition of auto-run files as taught by Kelly as explained above, and with the inclusion of a screen saver to monitor the lack of activity and therefore display substituted imagery, and for the additional benefit of presenting pleasing imagery when no active imagery is otherwise displayed, as taught by Prinsen (col. 4 lines 1-5 and lines 28-38), so allowed by Maine, thereby meeting claim 49.

14. Claim 50 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al, Hang, Maine et al., Kelly et al. and Prinsen, and in further view of Saiki et al.

Reviewing Saiki, his high-definition display unit (noting Fig. 3) includes an ambient light sensor for adjusting the display characteristics upon determining the degree of ambient light during display operation (col. 7 line 62 - col. 8 line 21), resulting in an improved presentation that is not effected by surrounding lighting conditions. It would have been obvious to include such a module in the system of Maine as modified by Kelly and Prinsen, for the express purpose of maintaining adequate display brightness levels regardless of the ambient lighting conditions, and as Maine allows for a multitude of upgrading, as discussed throughout.

15. Claim 52 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al, Hang, Maine et al., Kelly et al. and Prinsen, and in further view of Kelts.

As discussed previously, the multimedia player of Kelts (e.g. Figs. 1-4 and 27) includes high definition capabilities (section [0107]) as well as display orientation selection ([0088]) . It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such orientation options in the multimedia player of Maine as modified by Prinsen and Kelly for the purpose of

Art Unit: 2622

providing the user with extended display capabilities by either identifying the image orientation and responding thereto, or by allowing the user to orient the image as he pleases, thereby presenting the user with as much variety and options for playback as possible, such being a high consideration of the skilled artisan in the multimedia presentation field.

Furthermore, and as stated previously, Maine corroborates this as he points out that any plural upgrades in functionality of his multimedia player system are welcome.

16. Claim 51 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al, Hang, Maine et al., Kelly et al. and Prinsen, and in further view of Wall et al.

The multimedia player of Wall (102 in Fig. 4) includes slideshow presentation capable of presenting different media downloaded from a source ([0004], [0020], [0022]). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include such in Maine as modified by Kelly and Prinsen since Maine allows for any of possible upgrades for enhancing data presentation of various media, a slideshow format offering plural sequential data presentation.

17. Claim 53 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al. (of record) in view of Hang et al.

Reviewing Jiang, (noting Figs. 1, 2 and 6) he displays imagery in high-definition form on a media player (any of various kinds: col. 12 lines 7-11), and includes any of various source devices including peripherals, storage devices, disks and ROMs (col. 2 lines 54-67). His system includes an engine 220 that is capable of generating first and second high-definition imagery on display 150, and overlaying animation (e.g. col. 5 lines 55-65), wherein an event indicator is included to indicate that an event associated with the overlay is occurring, which in turn flips or

Art Unit: 2622

switches the high-definition display presentation (col. 6 lines 37-63). The display of any electronically-generated imagery can be considered electronic art.

As noted above, Jiang expressly allows for a variety of video devices to be used besides a DVD, including HDTV, but does not specify the pixel/line amounts, which further suggests that any suitable HDTV format could be used. Hang also specifies that 1280 pixel count is a typical amount in the 720 line HDTV standard.

In view of this, it would have been obvious to use the well-known 720 line format as mentioned by Hang (col. 2 lines 34-35) since such a suitable HTDV format would have been available at the time of filing.

18. Claim 54 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jiang et al. and Hang (of record) in view of Yatomi et al.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to display a clock as an overlay, as taught by Yatomi (Fig. 6; col. 6 lines 5-9), which would indicate when that event (i.e. any action prompted by the user or a timer) is occurring, which thereby gives immediate notice to the viewer with the timing of the event.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor R. Kostak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7348. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 6:30am-3:00pm.

Art Unit: 2622

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David W. Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

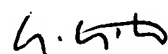
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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
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Or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 308-HELP.



Victor R. Kostak
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622

Application/Control Number: 10/665,978

Page 15

Art Unit: 2622

VRK